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Breaking Down the BARRIERS

Alberta Transportation October 2002

TTY Signage at Provincial Rest Stops

In September 2001, Alberta Transportation initiated a signage project through the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) to review the use of traffic signs for depicting facilities with teletypewriter (TTY) services along the highway. The province recently installed TTY devices where public telephones exist at provincially owned rest stops, but had no standards for TTY signage at that time.

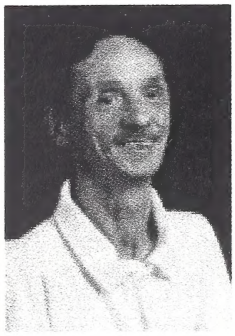
The results of the national survey indicated there were no standards in place across Canada, but concluded a sign was needed. The preferred sign is a supplemental "tab" where the letters "TTY" is placed beneath an existing telephone symbol on highway signs. The French version "ATS" was also adopted to represent "Appareil TéléScripteur."

TAC's Traffic and Operations Management Standing Committee (TOMS) has adopted the TTY sign (tab). The province has since placed TTY signs at provincially owned rest stops where TTY devices are available. The new TTY tab will be included in the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices of Canada to serve as the guideline for other provinces and territories.

For more information, please contact:

Robert Duckworth
Alberta Transportation
Phone: (780) 415-1047
E-mail: robert.duckworth@gov.ab.ca

Profile – Member of the Advisory Committee on Barrier Free Transportation



Name: Brian Laird
Occupation: Director of Special Resource Development,
Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities

1. How did you become interested in transportation issues?

I became interested in transportation shortly after my accident. I never gave much thought to transportation as being a problem or an issue until I had difficulty going where I wished to go and when I needed to go.

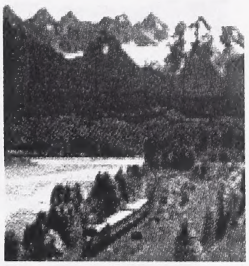
2. What is your role on the Barrier Free Committee and why did you become involved?

I represent the Alberta Committee of Citizens with Disabilities (ACCD) on the Advisory Committee. I was invited to join this committee given my interest in transportation for all persons with disabilities. Transportation is a basic need that everyone has.

3. What are the major concerns or issues you have related to accessible transportation?

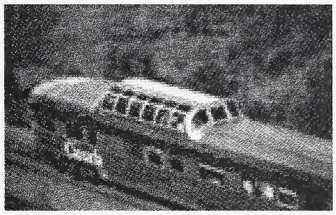
My major concern is that all people have equal access to all transportation options regardless of whether they have a disability or not. This concern extends to public transit systems and private transportation requirements such as parking and accessible taxis to intercity buses. This committee has made me aware of the many issues concerning transportation and to learn that transportation is far more than a vehicle or a road. It is about people getting to where they need to go. The Advisory Committee provides an excellent forum to discuss these and related issues.

VIA's Accessible Rail Cars in Service



On June 23, 2002, VIA Rail introduced its new Renaissance passenger rail cars into service along the Montreal to Toronto route. VIA reports positive response from customers on the accessibility features in the rail cars.

In December 2000, the Council of Canadians with Disabilities (CCD), an umbrella group representing associations for people with disabilities, filed a complaint with the Canadian Transportation Agency (CTA) stating that VIA's new coaches are less accessible than rail cars already in use.



After reviewing the rail cars now in service, the CCD maintains its view that the cars do not meet accessibility standards.

The CCD and VIA Rail are now awaiting CTA's ruling on the complaint, expected in the near future.

For more information, please contact:

Pat Danforth

Council of Canadians with Disabilities

Phone: (250) 383-4443

E-mail: ccd@pcs.mb.ca

Did You Know?

On July 25, 2002, a ceremony was held in Grande Prairie to mark the purchase of two new accessible buses.

Alberta Transportation provided approximately $118,000 towards this project through the Basic Capital Grant program. This program helps Alberta's smaller cities and their partners develop safe and effective transportation systems. For more information about this program please visit www.trans.gov.ab.ca, click "Municipal Grant Programs."

For more information about the new buses operating in Grande Prairie, please contact:

Karen Bustin
City of Grande Prairie
Phone: (780) 538-0359
E-mail: bustin@city.grande-prairie.ab.ca

Did You Know?

Specialty Vehicle & Equipment (Kirkman Bus Sales) of Calgary has a 2002 accessible Dodge Grand Caravan with a lowered floor and space for two wheelchairs available for rent. Anyone wanting more information or wishing to reserve this vehicle, please contact:

Tara Kirkman
Specialty Vehicle & Equipment
(Kirkman Bus Sales)
Calgary, Alberta
Phone: (403) 253-3010

Accessible Vehicle Standards

The provincial **Bus Safety Regulation** sets standards for securing mobility aids and mechanical standards that address features such as steps, lifts platforms and service ramps.

The regulation took effect on September 1, 1999 and applies to new handi-buses operating on or after this date. The regulation does not apply to taxis, intercity buses or transit buses.

Schedule 5 sets out standards and requirements for a Mobility Aid Securement and Occupant Restraint (MASOR) system that must be consistent with CSA standards. Other hardware components of the MASOR system are described including standards for seat-belts assemblies, anchorage points, emergency exits, lifts and service ramps.

Schedule 6 outlines the mechanical standards of new handi-buses including standards on service entrances, steps, passenger seating, lift platforms and service ramps.

All new handi-buses in operation on or after September 1, 1999 continue to be subject to semi-annual mechanical inspections.

If you would like more information about this regulation, please contact:

Sara Wong
Alberta Transportation
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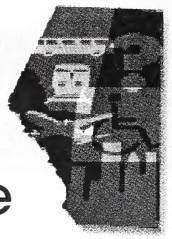
Or to obtain a copy of this legislation, please visit the following website at:
www.qp.gov.ab.ca/documents/regs/1982_235.cfm

Updated

Alberta Inter-community Public Transportation Guide



The Alberta Inter-community Public Transportation Guide is currently being updated with information regarding bus, rail and air routes, including accessibility information.

In addition, the guide will be enhanced to include rest stop information and air routes with destinations outside of Alberta. The travel time calculator will also be enhanced to include rail information.

The revised guide should be ready by mid-November and you are encouraged to visit it on Alberta Transportation's web site at www.trans.gov.ab.ca, click "Barrier Free." This web site also contains information about other barrier-free initiatives that may be of interest to you.

We would like to hear from you! If you have any comments or suggestions about the revised guide, please contact:

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Did You Know?

The National Library recently released its **Manager's Guide to Multiple Formats**. This document is intended to take a lot of the guesswork out of formatting, layout and production and includes a checklist of things to keep in mind when producing information in hard copy, audio format, Braille and electronic versions.

continued on next page

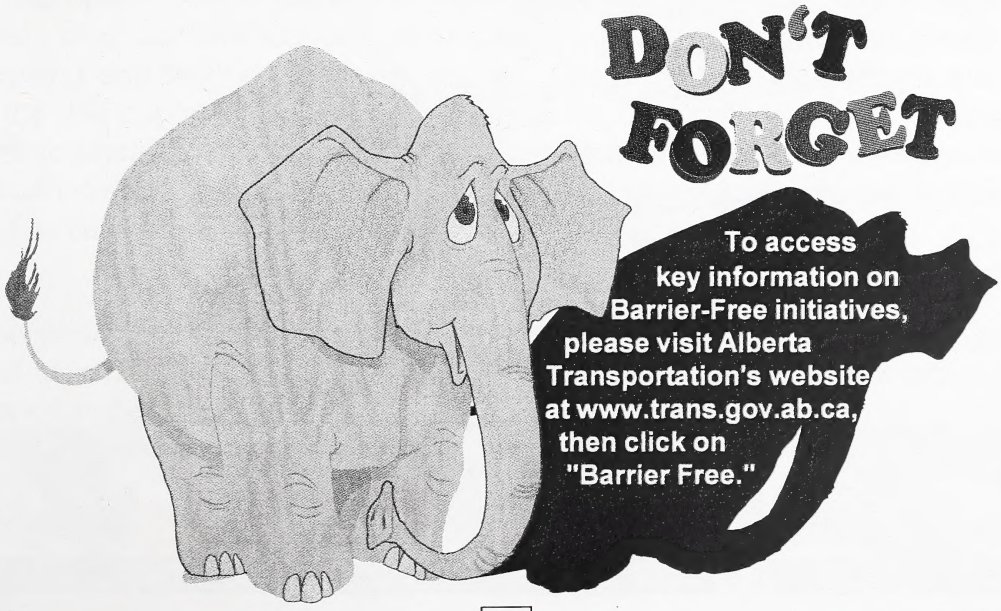
The guide was developed in response to one of the recommendations of the *"Task Force on Access to Information by Print-Disabled Canadians."* The Task Force was formed jointly by The National Library of Canada and The Canadian National Institute for the Blind to address the need for "...inclusive public policy in providing access to information for print disabled Canadians."

The guide provides recommendations on how to develop and deliver accessible published government materials and includes information related to:

- Accessible Web Sites
- Audio Format
- Braille
- Computer Diskettes
- Described Video
- Large Print
- On-Screen Text
- Sign Writing

An appendix accompanies the guide that lists helpful contact information, follow-up references and sample format specifications.

The guide is available on the National Library's web site in both official languages at: **www.nlc-bnc.ca/accessinfo**.



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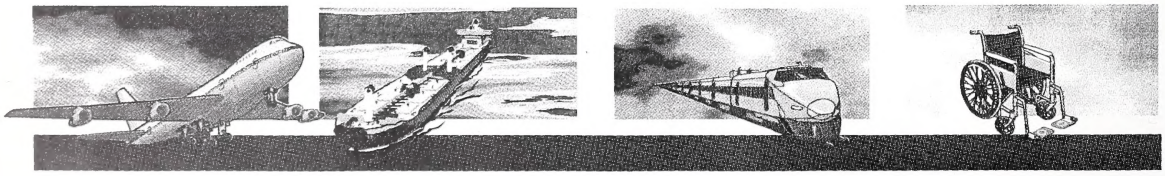
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